

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 14738 261401Z

61

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 261010Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

SECSTATE WASHDC 0595

S E C R E T SAIGON 14738

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, VS

SUBJECT: EGYPT AIR OVERFLIGHTS OVER SOUTH VIET-NAM

REFS : A) CAIRO 9305; B) SAIGON 14703

1. AT LUNCH TODAY FONMIN BAC TOLD ME HE HAD SIMPLY OVERRIDEN GVN CIVIL AIR ADMINISTRATION WHO WANTED TO FIRST OBTAIN A LOT OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND ORDERED THAT DECEMBER 1 BE SET AS DAY EGYPTIAN OVERFLIGHTS COULD BEGIN SHOULD CAIRO SO DESIRE.

2. MAY I SUGGEST FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

(A) AMBASSADOR AKINS MIGHT WISH TO CHECK IF GVN APPROVAL CONVEYED TO SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTRY AND WHETHER THEY HAVE NOTIFIED CAIRO.

(B) AMBASSADOR EILTS MAY CARE TO INFORM FAHMY OF SUBSTANCE OF PARA 1 ABOVE AND VOLUNTEER TO TRANSMIT DIRECTLY TO SAIGON FOLLOWING INFORMATION NEEDED FROM EGYPT AIR BY GVN CIVIL AIR AUTHORITIES:

(1) TYPE OF AIRCRAFT.

(2) DATE OF START OF SCHEDULE.

(3) DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL TIME OF AIRCRAFT AT EACH STOP FROM CAIRO TO TOKYO AND FROM TOKYO TO CAIRO.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAIGON 14738 261401Z

(4) DAYS OF WEEK OF SCHEDULE.

(5) INTERNATIONAL RADIO FREQUENCY OF COMMUNICATIONS.

(6) ADDRESS TO SEND OVERFLIGHT NAVIGATION SERVICE CHARGES.

(7) NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEAREST REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF AIRLINES.

(C) AMBASSADOR EILTS MIGHT SUGGEST TO FAHMY THAT CLOSEST EGYPT AIR CHAP QUALIFIED TO HANDLE THESE DETAILS (WE BELIEVE THIS MAY BE BANGKOK) ARRANGE TO COME TO SAIGON TO WORK OUT NECESSARY TECHNICAL POINTS. IF HE WILL NOTIFY US WHEN SUCH INSTRUCTIONS ARE ISSUED, WE WILL TRY TO FACILITATE IMMEDIATE GRANTING OF VISA IN BANGKOK AND ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS IN SAIGON.

3. I HOPE WE CAN KEEP THE SAUDIS BELIEVING THAT THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE WHOLE OPERATION AS MUCH AS IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO SO. I BELIEVE WITH THE STEPS OUTLINED ABOVE, WE CAN GET THE FLIGHTS STARTED BY DECEMBER 1 IF THAT IS DESIRED. PLEASE LET US KNOW.
MARTIN

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O, MISS ELTZ 11/26/74.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, OVERFLIGHT AGREEMENTS, FLIGHT CLEARANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON14738
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740343-0310
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741111/aaaaajei.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: : A) CAIRO 9305; B) SAIGON 14703
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPT AIR OVERFLIGHTS OVER SOUTH VIET-NAM
TAGS: EAIR, VS, EG
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005